



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #706

October 18, 2007



Chairman Vernon Chong
Randal Bressette, Vice Chairman
Tom Moran, Board Member

Jake I. Alarid, Board Member
Alice Astafan, Board Member
Colin Shadell, Board Member

The California Veterans Board met at the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Sacramento, California at 2:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Vernon Chong, Chairman, Randal Bressette, Vice-Chairman, Member, Alice Astafan, Member, Thomas Moran, Member, Colin Shadell, Member, Jake Alarid, Member
Chairman Chong presided

OPENING CEREMONIES

- A) INVOCATION**
- B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Chong welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. The Chairman then introduced the members of the Board and provided background on each Board member. He then introduced the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Thomas Johnson.

Secretary Johnson welcomed the group and introduced his staff, newly hired Deputy Secretary Veterans Affairs John King and Deputy Secretary Barbara Ward, Deputy Secretary Bill Parente, Chief Legal Counsel Rob Wilson, Deputy Secretary of Communications, J.P. Tremblay, Sheryl Schmidt, and Debra Lehr, Chief Farm and Home Division

MINUTES

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the previous meeting held August 10, 2007. Board member Bressette moved to approve the August 10, 2007. Board member Moran seconded.
Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Trice
Wade Sanders
Rusty Ruston

OLD BUSINESS

A) **Bi-Annual Meetings at Vets Homes**

This item will be discussed under New Business, Item A.

B) **Resolution on Veterans Mandatory Healthcare Funding**

Chairman Chong read a revision of the resolution submitted by Operation Firing for Effect to be considered by the Board.

Member Bressette moved to amend the resolution after “Therefore Let it be Resolved” to strike the word “Governor” and insert “President of the United States” and strike the word “Legislature” and insert “Congressional Delegation”, and return the resolution to the December Board Meeting for further appropriate action. The motion was seconded by Member Alarid. Discussion of the resolution followed.

The resolution as amended was approved unanimously. The resolution will be forwarded to the Governor and the California Legislature once a referendum is placed on the ballot.

DEPARTMENT FORUM

A. Department Update

1) **Financial Qualification**

Jake Alarid reported to the Board on the Homes Committee meeting with Bill Parente regarding financial qualifications, day passes, felony convictions, rules of conduct, staffing and resources, and the Napa newspaper article on the upcoming audit. Mr. Parente clarified inaccuracies in the report.

Jack Alarid made a motion that the Department of Veterans Affairs return with recommendations on how to deal more explicitly with income in the admissions policy.

The motion was seconded by Member Shadell. Discussion followed. With four nays and two yeas, the motion did not pass.

2) **Veteran Internship Program**

Mr. Tremblay advised that the Department is doing some research on establishing an intern undergraduate program.

3) **Staffing at Homes During Holidays**

Mr. Parente explained the policy for holiday staffing.

4) **Number of Loans Issued to Newly Returning Vets**

Debra Lehr reported that 639 loans have been made to returning Veterans.

5) **Impact on Staffing by Salary Increases to the Corrections System**

The Department is in the process of looking at a number of incentive programs and will also be applying for federal funds that will be available in March of next year that will provide at least fifty percent of the funding for these programs.

6) Veteran's Quality of Life Fund – JP Tremblay

Mr. Tremblay advised that the Quality of Life Fund did not meet the \$250,000 requirement to remain on the tax form.

C. Significant Legal Matters

Report submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Proposed Procedure for Schedule of Meetings

Chairman Chong read the proposed policy for the procedure of scheduling yearly Board meetings.

Member Moran moved to approve the policy with the addition of a coma after Chairman. Member Astafan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed with two nay votes by Member Bressette and Member Alarid.

B) Discussion of Policy C-2

This item was addressed under A-1 Department Forum.

C) Proposed 2008 Meeting Schedule

Member Astafan suggested Board Members provide input on the schedule to the Executive Officer, before placing it on the December meeting agenda.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

XI. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

a. Barstow Visit

Member Bressette advised that during his meeting with the Allied Council they reported the Home was clean and orderly, and the food was good. He noted two items the Council would like to see improved. The first would be the communication between the Homes. Member Bressette suggested sharing their newsletters. The second issue was a desire to standardize operations and paperwork for all of the Homes.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:00 PM.